

Message Text

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51

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PPT-02 SCA-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SCS-03 RSR-01 /056 W

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R 091030 Z APR 73

FM USINT BAGHDAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 277

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CASC, IZ

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO IRAQ

REF: STATE 056090

1. GOI CONTINUES TO BE SENSITIVE TO TRAVEL TO IRAQ BY DIPLOMATIC AND OFFICIAL PASSPORT HOLDERS. THEIR VISA APPLICATIONS ARE NORMALLY REFERRED TO BAGHDAD AND FOREIGN MINISTRY ASKS USINT PURPOSE OF VISIT. ALTHOUGH DELAYS ARE FREQUENT, NO SUCH VISAS HAVE BEEN REFUSED. WE STILL WAITING REPLY TO NOTE OF MARCH 23 REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION FOR VISIT BY REGIONAL GEOGRAPHIC ATTACHE. NUMBER OF VISITORS ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS SHOULD, IN MY VIEW, BE LIMITED TO THOSE WITH ESSENTIAL BUSINESS AND WITH REASONABLE POSSIBILITY OF ACCOMPLISHING THEIR BUSINESS. TO INSURE
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THIS, OFFICIAL VISITORS SHOULD NOTIFY USINT WELL IN ADVANCE OF PROPOSED TRIP SO THAT NECESSARY PREPARATIONS CAN BE MADE. IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE FOR USINT TO INFORM FOREIGN MINISTRY OF PROPOSED VISIT BEFORE VISA IS APPLIED FOR.

2. HOLDERS OF OFFICIAL AND DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS WHO WISH TO VISIT IRAQ PRIVATELY ARE IN DIFFERENT CATEGORY SINCE SOME IRAQI EMBASSIES MAY ISSUE THEM TOURIST VISAS WITHOUT REFERENCE TO BAGHDAD. IF VISAS ARE THUS OBTAINED, WE SEE NO PROBLEM. PROBLEM COULD DEVELOP, HOWEVER, IF IRAQI EMBASSIES REFER REQUESTS FOR VISAS FOR TOURISM TO FOREIGN MINISTRY, MINISTRY ASKS USINT ABOUT INDIVIDUALS CONCERNED, AND USINT UNABLE TO SUPPLY NECESSARY INFORMATION. FOR THIS AND REASONS OF SECURITY IT IS PRUDENT FOR U. S. OFFICIALS TO INFORM USINT OF PLANS TO TRAVEL TO IRAQ.

3. OFFICIAL TRAVELLERS FROM IRAN ARE OF COURSE DOUBLY SUSPECT AND I RECOMMEND THEIR TRAVEL TO IRAQ BE CLEARED IN ADVANCE BY USINT.

4. RE ALL TRAVEL BY AMERICAN CITIZENS IN IRAQ; OFFICIAL GOI POSITION, AS CONTAINED IN NOTE OF NOVEMBER 29, 1972 TO USINT IS THAT AMERICAN TOURISTS ARE FREE TO TRAVEL ANYWHERE IN IRAQ WITH EXCEPTION OF " PROHIBITED AREAS". PROHIBITED AREAS UNSPECIFIED, BUT ONLY ONE OF WHICH WE AWARE IS NORTHEASTERN FRONTIER WITH IRAN WHERE KURDS ARE IN PHYSICAL CONTROL.
LOWRIE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Subject: TRAVEL TO IRAQ
TAGS: CASC, PINS, IZ
To: AMMAN
ANKARA
ATHENS
BEIRUT
BRUSSELS
JIDDA
KUWAIT

NEA

SECSTATE WASHDC

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